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ABSTRACT

For a 120 day search period 209 titles representing the acquisitions of a medical school library and 55 selected from this total suitable for a hospital library were studied in relation to the availability of bibliographic information from the two major sources, National Library of Medicine (NLM) and Library of Congress (LC). Data were compared for, (1) titles for which information was available the day the book was received at Wayne State University Medical Library (WSUML), (2) titles for which information was available only after the book was received and (3) the availability pattern which developed during the search period. In addition, the WSUML monthly acquisitions list was judged for its usefulness to the community as far as speed was concerned. The study showed that, (1) LC consistently publishes bibliographic information earlier than NLM - two months earlier in the case of the 209 sample and one month earlier for the 55 sample, (2) the decision to use either LC or NLM as the principal source can be based largely on the number of titles to be cataloged at the end of the search period, (3) a new factor - that of the cost of searching and of typing cards as opposed to the purchase of printed cards - becomes important and (4) the alerting service of WSUML compares favorably with that of "Current Catalog." (Author/JB)

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WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
School of Medicine
Library
Biomedical Information Service Center

Report

No. 45

Availability of Bibliographic Information

II. Titles for the Medical School Library *

by

Mary E. McNamara

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Introduction

A select number of titles suitable for a hospital library were studied earlier in relation to the availability of bibliographic information from Library of Congress (LC) and National Library of Medicine (NLM) (1). The results indicated that for the general United States and British trade publications, which meet the needs of the hospital medical personnel, LC supplied bibliographic information one month earlier than NLM. The next question to be answered was whether the same availability pattern existed for titles acquired by the medical school library. The purpose of this study is to determine (a) whether one source publishes bibliographic information earlier than the other and, as far as time is concerned, meets the needs of the medical school library and (b) whether the titles from this sample suitable for a hospital library show a similar availability pattern as that of the earlier study. As in the earlier study, the speed of listing titles acquired by Wayne State Medical Library (WSUML) in its monthly acquisitions list could be judged.

Method of Study

The method used was the same as that for the earlier study. All titles (200) received consecutively at WSUML between November 1966 and January 1967 were included. Each title was searched for 120 days after receipt, according to the policy of WSUML for processing texts and monographs. LC sources included LC proof sheets, cards and entries in the "National Union Catalog" (NUC) (2). Sources for NLM information included the NLM "Catalog" (3) and bimonthly "Current Catalog" (CC) (4).

The number of days for each title depended upon the date of receipt of proof sheets, cards or issues of NUC and CC. In a number of instances LC cards in Xerox form were received from WSU General Library.

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(1) McNamara, M.E. Availability of Bibliographic Information. 1. Titles for the Hospital Library, Wayne State University Medical Library and Biomedical Information Service Center, Report No. 38, Detroit, August 1967.

(2) National Union Catalog: Cumulative Author List Representing Library of Congress Printed Cards and Titles Reported by other American Libraries, 1965-67, Washington, D.C., Library of Congress, 1966-67.

(3) U. S. National Library of Medicine. Catalog, Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1948--.

(4) U. S. National Library of Medicine. Current Catalog, Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1966--.

After data was compiled for the 209 titles, 55 were selected as suitable for a hospital library according to the criteria established for the earlier study, namely (a) meet the needs of a medical library in a hospital supporting an extensive educational as well as research program and (b) easily obtainable from a dealer handling United States and/or British trade publications.

Discussion

The 209 titles represented a wider range of subjects than those studied earlier and were published by 85 publishers as opposed to 47 in the first study (see Table 1).* The number of days after receipt of the title that NLM or LC bibliographic information was received and that the title was listed in the WSUML monthly acquisitions list is shown in Table 2.

After the title was received at WSUML and during the 120 day search period, bibliographic information in the form of LC proof sheets was available for 140 titles. Of these, 83 (59%) were available the day the book was received. LC cards were received for 154 titles, 37 (24%) of which were available the day the book was received. Titles for 142 were listed in CC and 66 (46%) were available the day the book was received. LC entries were listed in NUC for 143 with 42 (29%) available the day the book was received.

The average number of days for availability of information after the title was received was 52 for LC proof sheets, 60 for LC cards, 58 for CC and 63 for NUC. The median time for availability, however, was 33 days for LC proof sheets, 56 for LC cards, 48 for CC and 68 for NUC.

Information Available the Day the Book was Received

Data for information available the day the book was received was used to compare the speed of the two services. The 66 titles for which NLM information was available on the day of receipt were searched in LC sources. Of the 66, LC information was also available for 51 on the day of receipt and for the other 15 titles on an average of 87 days. The 111 titles for which LC information was available the day the book was received were then searched in NLM sources. On the day of receipt NLM information was also available for 50 titles, on an average of 66 days for another 17 and not received during the 120 search period for 44.

Information Not Available the Day the Book Was Received

Data representing titles for which information was not available the day the book was received were also compared. Of the 209 titles there were 142 (68%) for which NLM information was not available on the day of receipt. During the search period NLM information was found for 76 titles on an average of 51 days. LC information was searched for these same 142 titles. On the day the book was received LC information was available for 61 and for an additional 64 titles on an average of 49 days.

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* A list of the 209 titles is available upon request.

There were 98 (47%) of the 209 titles for which LC information was not available the day the book was received. During the search period LC information was found for 71 titles on an average of 49 days. NLM information was searched for these same 98 titles. On the day the book was received NLM information was available for 16 and during the search period for an additional 59 titles on an average of 49 days.

Relative Availability of Bibliographic Information

Data for the information availability pattern which developed during the 120 day search period for the total 209 titles is shown in Table 3. The table indicates that on the day the book was received NLM information was available for one-third of the titles and LC for one-half. At this point in the search period the percent ratio showed one-third more information gained from LC sources than from those of NLM. This percent ratio held true through the third month.

Although LC at the end of one month had produced information for two-thirds of the titles, NLM produced information for a comparable number only at the end of the third month. In other words, LC published bibliographic information two months earlier than NLM.

At the end of three months LC information had not been found for 35 titles and NLM information had not been found for 80. At this point the percent ratio showed LC producing one-fourth more information than NLM, and this ratio held true to the end of the search period. Since the 209 sample included not selected titles but all acquired for a specific period, the conclusion can be made that (a) medical school libraries using LC information and a similar search period will catalog originally one of every 10 titles while those using NLM will catalog originally three of every 10, (b) because of (a) the decision to use either LC or NLM as the principle source of information and the other as the supportive source can be based, to a great extent, on the number of titles to be cataloged at the end of the search period, and (c) because of (b) a new factor - that of the cost of searching and of typing cards as opposed to the purchase of printed cards - becomes important.

The relative availability of bibliographic information for the 55 titles particularly suitable for the hospital library is shown in Table 4. On the day the book was received, information was available from both LC and NLM for one-third of the titles. At the end of one month LC had produced information for two-thirds while NLM accomplished this same gain only at the end of the second month. At this point in the search period LC was producing information for one-fourth more titles than NLM and this pattern held true to the end of the search period. LC consistently produced information earlier than NLM for both the 209 sample and the 55 sample. Figure 1 presents this clearly in graphic form.

Although the sample of 55 select titles is considerably smaller than that studied earlier (numbering 147) the relative availability pattern is

almost identical after the first month (see Table 4). From this the conclusion can be made that (a) the statement of the earlier report that libraries acquiring, for the most part, the general trade publications in medicine and using LC bibliographic information as well as a similar search period will catalog originally one of every 50 titles as opposed to one of every four for those using NLM information is reinforced and (b) should either of these two sources alter substantially their method of producing bibliographic information, a comparatively small sample of titles is sufficient to test the relative availability of that information, if the search period is longer than one month.

WSUML Acquisitions List

Of the 209 titles studied 145 (69%) were listed in the monthly acquisitions lists during the 120 day period. The average number of days for listing was 75 and the median time 70. The above 69% listing in WSUML acquisitions list compares with that of the 142 (67%) in CC and coincides with the earlier publication of LC information which is used at this library.

Summary and Conclusions

For a 120 day search period 209 titles representing the acquisitions of a medical school library and 55 selected from this total suitable for a hospital library were studied in relation to the availability of bibliographic information from the two major sources, NLM and LC. Data were compared for (a) titles for which information was available the day the book was received at WSUML (b) titles for which information was available only after the book was received and (c) the relative availability pattern which developed during the search period. In addition, the WSUML alerting service through its monthly acquisitions list was judged for its usefulness to the community as far as speed was concerned.

The study showed that (a) LC consistently publishes bibliographic information earlier than NLM - two months earlier in the case of the 209 sample and one month earlier for the 55 sample, (b) the decision to use either LC or NLM as the principle source and the other as the supportive source can be based, to a great extent, on the number of titles to be cataloged at the end of the search period, (c) a new factor - that of the cost of searching and of typing cards as opposed to the purchase of printed cards - becomes important and (d) the alerting service of WSUML compares favorably with that of CC.

Since the number of titles yet to be cataloged at the end of the search period varied considerably, a study to determine the cost of searching information and of typing cards is now in progress.

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Table 1

85 Publishers of 209 Titles

Publisher	No. of Titles	Publisher	No. of Titles
Academic Press	6	Lewis, H. K.	1
Aldine Publishing	1	Licht, E.	1
Allen & Unwin, Ltd.	1	Lippincott	2
Allyn	1	Little	6
American Nurses' Found.	1	Livingstone	1
Appleton	2	McGraw	4
Assoc. for Aid of Crippled Child.	1	McGraw - Blakiston	4
Atheneum Pub.	2	Macmillan	1
Athlone Press	1	Medical Exam. Pub.	1
Benjamin	1	Medical Soc. New Jersey	1
Blackwell Sci. Pub.	5	Methuen	1
Burgess	1	Mosby	7
Butterworth & Co.	1	National League for Nursing	1
Chemical Pub. Co.	1	Norton	2
Churchill, J. & A.	2	Nuffield Prov. Hosp. Trust	1
Cold Springs Harbor Lab. Quant. Biol.	1	Oxford	1
College & University Press	1	Pageant Press	1
Columbia University Press	1	Pergamon	6
Davis	3	Pitman Medical	3
Dover	1	Prentice - Hall	2
Duckworth	1	Public Affairs Press	1
Edizioni Riviste Mediche	1	Random House	1
Elsevier Pub. Co.	3	Reinhold	2
English Universities	1	Rutgers University Press	1
Franklin Book Program, Inc.	1	St. Martins	1
Free Press	1	Saunders	12
Freeman	1	Science & Behavior	1
Grune	3	South. Ill. University Press	1
Hafner Pub. Co.	2	Springer Verlag	1
Heinemann	4	Staples Press	1
Hist. Soc. of West. Penna.	1	Thomas, C. C.	34
Hogarth	1	U. S. Superintendent of Doc.	14
Hong Kong Universtiy Press	1	University of Calif. Press	1
Hutchinson	1	Univer. of North Carolina Press	1
International Hosp. Fed.	1	Univer. of Washington Press	3
Iowa State University Press	1	University of Wisconsin Press	1
John Hopkins Press	1	Van Nostrand	1
Johnson Reprint	1	Wadsworth Pub.	1
Julian Press	1	Wiley	3
Knopf	1	William & Wilkins	6
Lancet	1	World Health Organ.	2
Lange Medical	1	Year Book Medical	4
Lea	5		

Table 2

209 Titles from WSUML Acquisitions of September 1966-January 1967. Number of Days after Receipt of Book that Bibliographic Information was Available from the Following:

Library of Congress		National Library of Medicine	National Union Catalog	WSUML
Proof Slip	Cards	Current Catalog	Library of Congress Entry	Acquisitions List
17	--	--	112	71
0	--	0	--	54
--	--	--	--	--
25	--	53	95	54
0	--	109	109	54
93	92	23	85	45
110	--	18	85	--
91	118	46	--	--
0	22	--	--	42
0	5	--	41	42
0	--	--	--	--
--	26	18	81	40
109	--	39	53	--
30	110	--	81	117
--	26	18	53	40
--	26	18	81	40
58	103	95	81	40
48	--	--	--	106
34	65	28	84	106
34	65	49	84	60
20	65	28	70	60
--	22	0	0	29
41	65	84	84	60
0	0	84	28	29
34	65	49	84	106
34	49	28	84	106
0	0	28	28	29
34	65	49	84	106
59	119	84	--	106
119	--	84	--	--
13	65	28	70	60
41	65	49	84	106
--	65	28	70	--
48	65	--	--	106
--	65	28	84	--
--	80	28	--	--
0	0	0	27	28
0	0	0	40	56
--	19	0	0	57
0	62	0	--	26
0	0	--	25	57
0	0	0	0	26
--	--	0	--	--
0	0	116	68	26
0	--	--	40	26
--	18	0	0	57
0	0	46	25	--
--	15	0	0	--
0	58	--	46	22
--	14	0	0	53
--	--	--	--	--
44	84	76	--	98
--	--	76	--	--
26	57	20	76	98
--	--	23	--	--
12	48	20	63	53
0	57	20	63	52
27	58	20	77	52
33	57	20	77	--
12	57	20	63	52
51	--	41	--	98
5	41	20	63	52
--	84	--	--	--
33	57	111	77	111
0	57	--	63	21
--	--	76	--	99
--	--	--	--	--
--	91	--	--	97
0	0	0	--	19
0	106	0	27	45

Table 2 (Cont'd)

Library of Congress		National Library of Medicine	National Union Catalog	WSUML
Proof Slip	Cards	Current Catalog	Library of Congress Entry	Acquisitions List
--	6	0	0	14
--	106	69	--	--
--	6	0	0	45
0	--	13	27	14
65	92	69	--	91
0	91	0	55	--
26	50	71	69	45
0	2	0	27	45
0	0	0	0	14
--	6	0	0	14
0	20	34	27	45
--	30	0	0	--
57	110	0	--	--
0	19	--	27	45
44	93	34	--	--
0	28	0	12	14
19	50	--	69	91
26	50	13	50	45
--	43	0	0	--
0	0	--	21	38
0	0	--	21	38
0	3	--	21	38
0	0	0	--	33
0	0	--	0	33
0	0	--	16	33
--	49	0	0	--
0	--	0	1	33
0	0	--	1	33
0	2	--	16	33
24	--	0	0	--
0	0	--	0	32
--	0	0	--	--
--	--	0	0	--
0	0	105	15	32
0	0	119	15	32
--	--	0	--	--
--	--	--	0	--
--	--	0	0	--
--	--	0	0	--
--	0	0	0	33
0	38	--	43	33
--	--	0	--	--
0	0	0	0	33
0	37	105	43	32
0	37	91	43	78
0	--	0	42	31
0	36	--	42	31
0	0	--	14	31
0	36	90	11	77
0	0	--	14	31
--	14	0	0	77
0	14	--	0	31
0	0	--	--	31
--	41	0	0	--
0	5	--	--	26
--	--	0	0	--
0	0	15	8	26
--	--	0	--	--
0	--	0	8	72
--	9	--	0	72
0	30	--	35	25
0	30	0	35	25
0	0	--	7	--
--	--	0	--	--
--	--	--	--	71
0	30	0	35	25
--	30	0	--	--
0	30	0	35	25
0	0	--	7	--
0	30	0	0	71
17	0	0	0	25
--	0	0	0	25
--	--	0	--	--
--	0	0	0	25
0	30	--	35	25

Library of Congress		National Library of Medicine	National Union Catalog	WSUML
Proof Slip	Cards	Current Catalog	Library of Congress Entry	Acquisitions List
0	33	97	48	72
16	63	--	--	24
16	56	48	--	70
82	89	97	--	--
114	--	97	--	--
16	70	--	104	114
44	56	13	104	114
--	73	13	104	114
0	29	0	0	24
16	56	--	104	70
12	83	83	104	70
0	33	48	34	24
37	75	48	104	114
0	29	0	0	70
--	--	0	--	--
--	118	--	0	--
--	--	94	--	--
--	--	--	--	--
0	24	0	39	19
0	24	--	32	19
0	0	0	0	19
0	24	--	39	19
0	0	0	0	--
26	--	0	97	63
--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--
0	49	--	41	17
--	--	0	--	--
--	--	0	--	--
--	--	0	--	--
0	22	--	--	63
--	--	6	107	--
--	--	--	--	--
--	86	--	--	107
--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--
--	--	70	--	--
--	--	--	--	--
--	--	0	--	--
--	80	35	--	63
--	--	76	--	--
--	93	0	--	--
--	57	--	37	107
0	0	--	0	17
--	20	--	0	61
0	20	--	35	61
0	0	--	0	61
80	94	0	--	--
49	63	39	--	105
0	0	--	0	61
66	74	74	--	--
105	--	74	--	--
42	74	0	--	61
87	--	74	--	105
--	63	--	0	105
0	42	0	25	61
0	20	1	0	61
28	90	116	95	120
66	--	39	102	105
59	84	39	100	62
0	62	--	21	57
0	1	--	6	42
0	1	--	6	86
0	--	0	--	86
0	0	--	5	41
10854	12511		13175	15462
Av. 52	60		63	74
Med. 33	57		63	

Table 3

Relative Availability of Bibliographic Information (209 Titles)

Period	Titles Found Per Period				Cumulative Titles Found Per Period				
	1 NLM	2 %	3 LC	4 %	5 NLM	6 %	7 LC	8 %	9 Ratio 6/8
Day Rec'd	66	31	111	53	66	31	111	53	58
2 Weeks	6	3	5	3	72	35	116	55	64
1 Month	22	11	19	9	94	45	135	65	69
2 Months	18	9	24	11	112	54	159	76	71
3 Months	17	8	15	7	129	62	174	83	75
4 Months	13	6	8	4	142	68	182	87	78

Table 4

Relative Availability of Bibliographic Information

Period	55 Selected Titles: Titles Found Per Period				55 Selected Titles: Cumulative Titles Found Per Period						147 Selected Titles: Cumulative Titles Found Per Period					
	1 NLM	2 %	3 LC	4 %	5 NLM	6 %	7 LC	8 %	9 Ratio	6/8	5 NLM	6 %	7 LC	8 %	9 Ratio	6/8
Day Rec'd	17	31	20	36	17	31	20	36	86		46	31	69	47	66	
2 Weeks	1	2	3	6	18	33	23	42	79		50	34	80	54	63	
1 Month	11	20	14	25	29	53	37	67	79		57	39	100	68	57	
2 Months	8	15	10	18	37	67	47	85	79		92	63	137	93	68	
3 Months	4	7	3	6	41	75	50	91	82		106	73	143	97	76	
4 Months	4	7	5	9	45	82	55	100	82		111	76	145	98	78	

Figure 1. Availability of Bibliographic Information
from
Library of Congress and National Library of Medicine